

**OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL TRUSTEE FOR
AMERICAN INDIANS
CONTINGENCY PLAN FACT SHEET
September 27, 2013**

The Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians provides fiduciary guidance, management, and leadership for Tribal Trust and Individual Indian Money accounts. The Office of the Special Trustee oversees and coordinates the Department's efforts to establish consistent policies, procedures, systems, and practices throughout Interior for the Indian fiduciary trust. The Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians manages and discharges the Secretary of the Interior's responsibility for nearly \$4.4 billion in trust assets for American Indians.

In December 2012, the Secretary of the Interior established the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations, in the Office of the Secretary, to implement the land consolidation aspects of the Individual Indian Money Account Litigation Settlement, formerly referred to as the *Cobell v. Salazar* lawsuit. The Settlement provides \$1.9 billion for a Trust Land Consolidation Fund for the Department to acquire fractional interests in trust or restricted land within ten years, at fair market value, from willing individual Indian sellers. The Office of Appraisal Services within the Office of the Special Trustee has established a reimbursable support agreement with the Land Buy Back Program to complete the appraisals of the fractionated interests.

Services and programs that would remain operational:

- Receive and invest trust income
- Maintain system integrity and operability and ensure interfaces with Trust Asset and Accounting Management System, Trust Fund Accounting System, and Department of Treasury.
- Communicate on a limited basis with beneficiaries thru the Trust Beneficiary Call Center.
- Conduct appraisals of fractionated interest in Indian lands (Land Buy-Back Program).

Services and Programs that would cease:

- No Regional Fiduciary Trust Administrator (RTA) or Fiduciary Trust Officer (FTO) assistance at field locations in Indian country
- Reduced Services will be provided through the Trust Beneficiary Call Center for beneficiaries
- Office of Trust Records
- Office of Trust Services (except limited personnel needed to process trust fund accounting transactions)
- Office of Appraisal Services (except those employees funded through reimbursable agreement with the Land Buy Back Program to appraise fractionated interest in Indian land.)
- Office of Trust Review and Audit
- Office of Historical Trust Accounting